

CITY OF AUSTIN
BICYCLE ADVISORY COUNCIL (BAC)
MEETING SUMMARY

City Hall
301 W. 2nd Street
November 15, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Allison Kaplan – BAC Chair
Jason Abels – BAC Vice Chair
Chris LeBlanc - BAC
Nick Warrenchuck - BAC

Myndi Swanson – BAC
Shelia Monlina - BAC
Eileen Nehme – BAC

Matt Tynan – Alt BAC
Tom Wald – Alt BAC
Noni Jarnagin – Alt BAC

GUESTS:

Jose Barboza
Cynthia Tynan
Bob Gilbert

Justin Good
Thu Tran
Alex Martinez

Jesse Duncan
Michael Cosper
Christopher Stanton

STAFF PRESENT:

Nadia Barrera

Neil Kopper

1. Introductions – Ms. Kaplan begins the meeting with introductions
2. Review and Approval of October Minutes – Ms. Molina moves to approve the minutes and there is no dissent.
3. Items from BAC –
 - Colored Lanes needed locations – Mr. LeBlanc suggests a bike box at 38th and Jefferson, where crossing 38th to go to Brykerwoods. A bike box in the middle lane would make it feel safer for children riding to school.
4. Items from Staff – 6:50-7:55
 - UT Presentation – Complete Street Vinson Drive – The group presents current conditions, challenges, and proposed recommendations with cost estimates. Mr. Kopper recommends looking at Lancing Street for next year's project and to improve East/West connection over the railroad. Ms. Kaplan asks if the buffers in the protected bike lane were curbs. The students confirmed that they were. Ms. Kaplan suggests bollards or delinators. The students state that due to high speeds and volumes, the curbs seem ideal. Ms. Kaplan also mentions that the reason only advanced cyclists use this roadway is because the road is already unsafe. Ms. Molina reaffirms that "if you build it they will come." She also asks about how the students determined the level of safety. The students respond that they looked at the amount of separation provided by each option. Mr. LeBlanc asks about the width of the proposed bicycle facilities (3.5'). The students state that they used the TCM. Mr. Kopper reviews the minimum standards for bicycle lane widths.

- UT Presentation – Complete Street Pleasant Valley – The group presents current conditions and solutions. Mr. Stanton asks why not road diet from the dam to south of Lakeshore? The student states that there was sufficient space to keep both lanes of traffic south of the dam. Ms. Swanson asks about visibility, specifically near the baseball fields. There is a real concern about the darkness, especially with the lights from the baseball fields. Mr. Wald recommends moving the bus stop to after the intersection of the baseball fields to improve safety. Mr. Wald asks about the cross section on the bridge, it seems like they might be about 40' which would allow you to add some buffered bike lanes. Mr. Kopper suggests giving more room to the cyclists. Mr. LeBlanc asks about the feasibility of a road diet on Pleasant Valley. Mr. Kopper discusses the feasibility. Ms. Tynan asks about the speed limit. The student states that it is 40mph.
- CapMetro – Mr. Cortez discusses the MetroBike Station and how it is functioning. He introduces the proposals for future MetroBike Stations at Tech Ridge Park and Ride, Lakeline Park and Ride, Highland Station, MLK Station, and the South Congress Transit Center. There is funding for one more location, but they have not yet nailed down that location – potentially it would be at the Convention Center. The stations will be completed by the beginning of 2013. CapMetro is also about to break ground on the trail project adjacent to Crestview to Denson, past the Highland Station. They hope to break ground early next year to be complete by early 2014. They hope to have some funds left over, and if so – they would like feedback on what to do with any extra funds. Mr. Cortez says that the 3-bike racks are being piloted on 10 vehicles. So far there has not been an issue with safety. They plan to launch a survey to determine if there has been any specific concerns about the 3-bike racks and will then launch more 3-bike racks on all vehicles. Mr. Cosper asks about improvements at Westgate. Mr. Cortez states that the difficulty may be finding the real estate at Westgate. Mr. Cortez also states that Westgate will be upgraded to account for increased transit service. Ms. Kaplan asks if there has been any work in conjunction with the Airport Boulevard Re-Design. Mr. Cortez states that the trail will be implemented along with Airport Boulevard Re-Design. Mr. Stanton asks about adding capacity for bicycles on the train. Mr. Cortez says CapMetro does not want to restrict cyclists from using the train, but want to provide more options for transit users. Ms. Molina asks if CapMetro will consider adding more cars to MetroRail. Mr. Cortez states that each car costs approximately \$6m and each platform would have to be reconstructed. At this time, there is not funding for expanding the platform or buy new rail cars. Mr. Cortez says that it is more likely that CapMetro would build more siding tracks to allow for higher frequency. MetroRapid starts in 2014, construction on the first line (Tech Ridge to Slaughter) has already begun. Later in 2014 the second line (The Domain to Westgate) will be implemented. CapMetro is working with other regional partners to implement Project Connect – with a long-range vision to connect Central Texas with high-capacity transit. The planning process looked at travel patterns and decided to focus on high congestion areas such as Central Austin, addressed by the Urban Rail project proposed by the City of Austin. The second corridor that needs attention is the north corridor: Georgetown to Downtown. CapMetro will conduct an alternatives analysis to determine the locally preferred alternative to help them to seek federal dollars in the future. Mr. Cortez recommends that everyone join their Twitter feed and Facebook site to stay informed in regards to the potential strikes that may occur in the near future.
- Action Item: Meeting Day Change – Mr. LeBlanc states per how he understands the amended by-laws we can submit to the BAC at least 10 days prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Wald mentions that the UTC meets the 2nd Tuesday, YBP meets the first Tuesday, and ACA meets the last Wednesday. Mr. Wald suggests 3rd and 4th Tuesday, and 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Wednesdays. Ms. Kaplan will create a survey to present to the group.

- Action Item: Secretary for Meetings – tabled until December.
- Mr. LeBlanc would like to amend the by-laws per the alternate members. It should be revised to say we can elect up to 10 members and he will send his amendments to the BAC 10 days prior to the next meeting.

5. Announcements/Adjourn –

- Ghisallo Foundation – Rosewood Neighborhood Census -

6. Mr. Wald motions to adjourn and Mr. LeBlanc seconds

DRAFT